

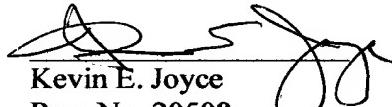
REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1 and 4-11 have been allowed.

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner has concluded that the use of the word "type" in the rejected claims renders the claims indefinite. If this basis for rejection is overcome, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 3 also would be allowable.

By this response, claims 2 and 3 have been further amended to eliminate the use of the word "type" in favor of more positive recitations of the structure employed in the claimed process. Accordingly, it is believed that the indefiniteness rejection has been overcome and the application now is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

2. (Twice amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the first process step is realized in a suspension heat exchanger [of the suspension type], a rotary tubular kiln, a multiple-hearth furnace, a shaft furnace, or a [preheating unit of the fluidized bed or cyclone type] fluidized bed or cyclone preheating unit.

3. (Twice amended) A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the second process step is carried out in a melting cyclone, a rotary tubular kiln, a hearth furnace [of the hearth type], or in an iron melting oxidation reactor.